

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXX NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2022

EBARC Meetings

October 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

TBA

Check your email for Zoom link



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact officers at EBHam.office@gmail.com.

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THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Nov. issue: Tues., Oct. 25th

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to ebham.office@gmail.com.

October 14th EBARC Meeting

The general EBARC meeting will again be held as a virtual Zoom meeting only. The Zoom link will be sent via email. We hope you join us! Future meetings for (TBD) more months will also be held via Zoom. **Watch your email for potential updates about October's meeting!**

New Editor Needed Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

I first edited *The Blown Fuse* for the January 1994 issue, taking over for John Billiones, WD6GGC (aka Golden Gate Charlie). After 28 years, I am resigning as your editor. The last issue that I edit will be the January 2023 issue, which I will create near the end of this December. There is documentation on how to create new issues in John's original format. The new editor need not follow this current format. However, any new format should include the ARRL logo and the club's W6CUS headphone logo. I have paper copies of all the issues I edited. They are yours for the asking (by the end of 2022). If you'd like to be the club's new editor, please send email to EBHam.office@gmail.com.

2023 EBARC Officers Needed!

Election and installation of 2023 EBARC officers will be at our December meeting. Here are the officer positions:

- President
- 1st Vice President (Programs)
- 2nd Vice President (Membership)
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Chris Harwood, Katie Carney, and Sharon Primbsch will not run again. If you'd like to be an officer for 2023, please send email to EBHam.office@gmail.com.



EBARC NEEDS YOU!

September 2022 General Minutes Todd Teachout, W8BIK, Secretary

The EBARC general meeting was held September 9, 2022, virtually, via the Zoom internet conferencing application. 20 people attended.

A meeting announcement was distributed via email on 9/9/2022. The President, Chris Harwood, AA6AT, called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Chris welcomed attendees.

Officer Reports:

1st VP Programs: Katie, KN6APB, reported there were two presentations that she thought would be interesting to the attendees. One is about the Webb Space Telescope, and another is about adjusting your radio. She asked if attendees had a preference. The presentation about the Webb Telescope was chosen. Katie also had heard that Martin Jun, founder and CEO of MFJ Enterprises, occasionally speaks to clubs. She will explore inviting him in the future.

Secretary: Todd Teachout, W8BIK, reported that the draft August 2022 EBARC general meeting minutes were published in the September 2022 *Blown Fuse* newsletter. He reported receiving correction requests about the contacts at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Randy Schuman is actually Randolph Hudson, KK6UPI. Tess Hardy is actually Tess O'Riva and is the Executive Director of the Church, not a pastor. The minutes were corrected. Todd recommended the attendees approved the corrected minutes. Audrey, W6BBQ, motioned that the group approve the August minutes. Sharon, AA6XZ, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by affirmation.

Treasurer: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, gave her report of club finances. A detailed July report was in the September *Blown Fuse* newsletter. She will provide the August report in the next edition. In the July report there were expenses of \$134 for equipment storage unit rental and a Field Day food expense reimbursement to Karen Fenton for \$177.42. There is an ending balance of \$11,691.29.

2nd VP-Membership/Newsletter: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, reported that Marcel Nita, KN6VKL, and Igor Lacan, KM6UAU, joined EBARC recently. She also mentioned Rob Johnson, KK6JNI, as having joined EBARC in the last month or so (and is in attendance at today's meeting). The deadline for making

contributions for the October *Blown Fuse* newsletter is September 20 (corrected to September 27th).

1st VP Programs: Katie, KN6APB, reported she will be playing a video about the Webb Space Telescope. See Program Section below for more information. See also Old Business- for Katie's efforts regarding securing an in-person meeting place.

President: Chris, AA6AT, reported getting on the air. He joined in on the 75m net at 3.893 MHz using an Elecraft KX3 transceiver connected to a dipole antenna. He reported challenges from some stations with high power. His remedy was to tune to the end of the noise about 3 kHz or so. He also participated in the VHF net using a VX8 5 watt handi-talkie connected to a 10 element beam. In the process he encountered a signal from member Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE. In his effort to improve his signal with Howdy, Chris discovered direction finding capability with that beam antenna. While he was having fun making the contact he also was simulating communicating if there were no power available. Chris had additional comments. See Announcements and New Business sections for more.

Announcements.

September 11th is the Solano Stroll. The 94803 EmComm Group was able to get a community service table and is seeking volunteers to staff the table. The goal is to promote amateur radio and emergency services in the 94803 ZIP code area. The topography in that area adversely impacts transmitting and receiving radio signals. The group is building a network of people with radios which is dense enough to allow communications during disasters. Jay Fenton, KJ6WSS, is loaning a PEAK (Portable Emergency Antenna Kit) to the effort. The 94803 Group is also trying to set up a communications hub at the Appian Way triangle, near a site formerly occupied by

Adachi Nursery, at the intersection of Apian Way and Valley View Road.

ARRL has a VHF Contest on September 10-12, 2022

ARRL has a Digital Mode (FT8) VHF Contest on September 14, 2022

The *QSO Today* online Amateur Radio Conference is happening on September 16-18, 2022.

The *Collegiate QSO Party* is on October 1-2, 2022. While the title suggests it is only for college age students, the event is open to all including currently enrolled students, alumni, and others, especially newly licensed Amateurs. More info at: <https://collegiateqsoparty.com/>

The *ARRL School Club Roundup* event will happen on October 17-21. More info at <https://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>.

Pacificon, the Bay Area amateur radio conference and show, will be held at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, October 14-16, 2022. More info at <https://www.pacificon.org/>

Jeff Miller mentioned he forwarded a movie involving ham radio to Chris for consideration to show to the group in the future. It is from the *Turner Classic Movie* archive. Chris will make an effort to screen it to determine if the whole club might enjoy it.

New Business

Officer Elections, for 2023. Chris, AA6AT announced that he will not seek reelection as Club President or any other officer position next year. Family and work demands leave insufficient time for him to do the task. Chris, intends to remain a member of the Club. It was announced that Katie, KN6APB, will not be seeking reelection to serve as the 1st VP (Programs Chair) or other club officer position in 2023. She has a new job with Berkeley

Labs. The new duties leave insufficient time for her to do the duties of the 1st VP. Katie intends to remain a member of the club. It was announced that the Sharon, AA6XZ, will not be seeking reelection as 2nd VP (Membership Chair). She also will no longer serve as the *Blown Fuse* editor. She has served the club in an administrative function for approximately 30 years. After much consideration, she decided that it is time to step back and step aside. She has migrated most of club information onto a cloud based server and would assist new incoming officers and new editor to learn how to perform the duties of these positions.

Treasurer Audrey, W6BBQ, and Secretary Todd, W8BIK, did not disclose their future plans to serve as club officers. *[Audrey is open to continuing to serve as Treasurer in 2023. Todd is open to continuing to serve as Secretary in 2023. - Editor]*

With at least three officer positions open, Chris notified the attendees of the need for volunteers to serve as officers for 2023. The club bylaws indicate the President shall appoint a nominating committee by September 1st. This committee develops and presents a slate of officer candidates at the October meeting. Chris' notification of the need for volunteers for 2023 officers is offered as equivalent action to naming a committee.

In the past, elections were held using mailers containing election ballots as well as membership renewal forms. 2nd VP Sharon has done this activity in recent years. She reported that she will not be involved with developing a mailer for the 2023 election. She reported that the Executive Committee is considering other methods to run the election. Options are; continuing the current mailer, using an online election method, or voting at the December general meeting. Which method has not fully determined or approved.

Item Continued.

Old Business

In Person Meeting Place: Katie, KN6APB, reported that the Executive Committee approved a three month trial run of in-person meetings at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), starting in October with a cost believed to be \$100/month. UUCB is located in Kensington on the ridge of the East Bay Hills. Katie had previously spoken to Randolph Hudson, KK6UPI, a church board member, and Tess O'Riva, UUCB Executive Director. Katie was given a tour of the church and found the location to be very appealing. The church has room for meetings and classes. It may have room for equipment storage. There may also be space to allow EBARC to set up a radio station at the church. Storage, class space and radio shack issues are subject to more discussions.

The UUCB site was suggested by EBARC member Lorraine, KN6CRT. Randolph, KK6UPI, has been a member of EBARC in the past. Interim Reverend Dr. Michelle Collins, a UUCB faith leader, has become interested in ham radio as well as EmComm and HF operating activities. It was reported that she recently acquired a Technician license. Reverend Michelle and several church board members are supportive of the idea of providing space for EBARC. The church's collaboration with EBARC is part of their broader effort to make the church site a resiliency point in the community.

Katie introduced Randolph Hudson to provide the view from the church perspective. Randolph thanked Lorraine for making the suggestion to allow EBARC to use church facilities. The church is motivated to engage members of the community to help them live with integrity, joy, and service. He recently has been active with emergency response prep activities in his neighborhood and has been working with David Swanson, KJ6AAT, and Diane Richwine, KK6RED, who are also involved with EmComm activities. The goal of those activities is to improve skills and networks. Randall believes having a physical

station at the church would help the community respond in emergencies.

Lorraine indicated that she thought the site checks off all of the boxes with regard to club needs. This includes space for meetings and classes, internet service to enable hybrid meetings, audio visual facilities to aid presentations, hospitality items, space for storage of club equipment, and maybe even a possible radio shack site. These physical resources together with club human resources may allow the club to grow.

There was some discussion of electrical power. Randolph reported that there is a solar panel array installed on the UUCB roof which is rated at 30 megawatts and is tied to the grid. He thought there is a possibility to meet and operate without adding to greenhouse gas emissions. It was mentioned that grid-tied solar is not yet a totally reliable power source. There will need to be an effort to determine options if the grid goes down, if a station is set up. The trial period can provide time to assess this risk better.

There was some concern expressed about RF impacts of the electrical transmission lines that come up from Moeser Lane in El Cerrito. RF noise from the lines could interfere with radio operations. This matter can also be explored in the coming months.

Specific information regarding the church location and details about in-person meeting in October will be detailed in the *Blown Fuse*. The plan is to meet, explore, and determine positive and negative aspects. If the experience is positive, the club is expected to work out details about long-term relations in 2023 going forward. The site is located at 1 Lawson Road, Kensington, CA, 94707-1015

The last in-person EBARC meeting was February, 2020.

The club had also been considering the Open Door Methodist Church, in East Richmond

Heights on Arlington Blvd. Member Morie Oberg, KK6MO, is a member of the Open Door Church. Morie has been introducing EBARC officers to members on this church.

Discussions had occurred to determine if the church would consider allowing the club to meet there. With the impact of the COVID pandemic still fresh on everyone's mind, the church is not considering allowing other non-church groups, like EBARC, to use the facilities before January 2023. A meeting was being organized to introduce each other face-to-face and to get a tour of the church. With the action taken regarding the Unitarian Church, further consideration of the Open Door Church further consideration is necessarily suspended. 1st VP Katie indicated she would call/e-mail the Open Door Church member who has been handling EBARC's inquiry and notify them of EBARC's action to meet in-person at the Unitarian Church between October and December on a trial basis.

No further action taken. Item continued.

Website: In August President Chris, AA6AT, asked for volunteers to serve as a webmaster and/or to be part of a website advisory committee. Chris and Sharon reported that no one has yet volunteered to be considered a webmaster or to serve on a website advisory committee.

The webmaster would be in charge of updating and maybe setting up a new club website. The duties of the advisory committee were not fully determined, but are envisioned to act as content advisory group and serve as an editor to catch and report errors.

Before the August meeting 2nd VP Sharon, AA6XZ, prepared a proposal/discussion paper about the website. At the August general meeting her paper was shown as a screen view. The ideas within it were briefly discussed. The main point made was that the club needed a volunteer with interest and energy to be the club webmaster. If more than one member were interested, then an advisory

committee could also be set up. The request was made again for someone to volunteer to serve as webmaster.

Many in the club believe the current website needs updating. A challenge with the current website is that making changes requires some knowledge of HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language). In research that has been done so far, some website builder tools were found that do not require knowledge of HTML. Sharon suggested using Google Sites (low cost). Sharon also mentioned Weebly.com. Sharon spent some time a year and a half ago creating a fictitious radio club website called Jane Doe ARC <https://janedoearc.weebly.com/> to learn and test capabilities of the Weebly editing tools. Jane Doe ARC approximates a complete logical reorganization of almost everything that's on our current EBARC HTML website. This effort could be used as a template for a new EBARC website.

Sharon suggested that the current website could easily be replaced by slightly modifying the (currently fictitious) Jane Doe ARC website. A path to replace our current EBARC website would be needed to migrate Jane Doe ARC from Weebly to Google Sites. The person who does this migration need not be our new, future webmaster. The future webmaster will need to understand and maintain the site with whatever tool is used and wherever the site is located.

Having built the fictitious Jane Doe ARC website, Sharon estimated that migrating the content of the Weebly website would require about 24 hours for someone familiar with Google Sites. Learning Google Sites would require additional time. Additional effort might also be needed to investigate and make recommendations about the hosting, selecting a website builder (if not Google Sites tools or Weebly), as would populating the site with website content (whether new or migrated from the current EBARC website). Understanding and reporting the costs of hosting the website and use of website builder tools may also need to be more fully determined.

Once these initial actions are done, it is expected that the ongoing website maintenance effort will take approximately one hour a month. Examples of maintenance activities include uploading the monthly newsletter, making changes the officer list, and putting up and taking down content related to event-driven activities.

Member Robin Spalding, N6RLS, and others asked a few questions. Robin asked about the proposal. Sharon offered to send a copy of the new website proposal to him. Member Jeff Miller, KJ6RHF, suggested sending it to all members. There was some discussion of whether to send to proposal out widely or at a more focused level. After discussion Sharon indicated that she would forward the proposal to all members.

There was some discussion on timing. Officers reported that website revisions have been under discussion for over a year, when Martin Rothfield, W6MRR, the former club webmaster was suggesting the need for bigger revisions. The desire to update the website has been there for some time. Updates have not been done because of insufficient resources to do it.

Chris mentioned the club also has a Facebook group page. Chris suggested as an alternative the current website could be shut down and the club could rely on the Facebook group page as its online presence. Some negative reactions to having no website were expressed.

No further action taken. Item continued.

Program: 1st VP Katie, KNAPB, introduced a video about the Webb Space Telescope called *Seeing the Universe Like We've Never Seen it Before* by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Berkeley Labs. It is a 39 minute presentation and was made into a YouTube Video. It can be seen in its entirety at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jT_Zui1Am8

Significant points from the video are that the telescope is positioned 1,000,000 miles away at a celestial position called Lagrange Point 2, as compared to the low earth orbit of Hubble. The telescope senses infrared light compared to the Hubble telescope, which senses visible light. The Webb telescope is 100 times more powerful than Hubble in its ability to sense stellar objects. The expectation is that Webb will extend our understanding of how stars and galaxies form. The project team reported that Hubble was able to provide data to answer to questions that had not been asked when its telescope was launched. The Webb team is similarly hopeful that new data will be found that answers to questions not yet conceived. The Webb Telescope was launched in December 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The next meeting is October 14, 2022.

Treasurer's Report August 2022 Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treas.

AUGUST GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$11,379.91

Income:

Earned Interest.....\$0.04

Total General Income:.....\$0.04

Disbursements:

Storage Locker.....\$134.00

Total General Disbursements.....\$134.00

Ending Balance\$11,245.95

(portion as petty cash..... \$40.00)

(portion as a US Bank CD... \$5,000.00)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships

You can now send electronic payments to EBARC via PayPal. Funds should be sent to treasurer@ebarc.org. Edit the note area in PayPal to identify yourself and the payment's

purpose (e.g. "dues" & callsign). Please do NOT provide any street address (this prevents PayPal from charging EBARC a "vendor" fee).

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

What kind of stars wear sunglasses?
Movie stars.

What do you call an alien with three eyes?
An aliiien.

Which is closer, Florida or the moon?
The moon. You can't see Florida from here.

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Calendar of Bay Area Ham Radio Public Service Events."
- Want to upgrade? You can search for VE tests via <https://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>. *[Thank you, Albert Goto, N6SX, for taking over as the East Bay's VE testing team liaison!]*
- East Bay Section ARRL ARES; arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/eb. CoCoCo ACS RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz. Also see Sheriff Office's Communications Unit David Nielson, K6CDN, davidnielson@yahoo.com

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see website www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2022 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

President.....Chris Harwood, AA6AT
 1st VP / Program ChairKatie Carney, KN6APB
 2nd VP / Membership ChairSharon Primbsch, AA6XZ
 Secretary..... Todd Teachout, W8BIK
 Treasurer / Finance ChairAudrey Nieman, W6BBQ

2022 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Steering Committee.....Katie Carney, KN6APB
 Social Media.....Katie Carney, KN6APB
Blown Fuse EditorSharon Primbsch, AA6XZ
 W6CUS TrusteeChris Harwood, AA6AT
 Webmaster.....Chris Harwood, AA6AT

To contact an officer or committee head, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

| NET | DAYS | LOCAL TIME | FREQ, MHZ |
|---|---------------------|------------------|-----------|
| "Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net | Mo-Fr | 0710 (PL 82.5-) | 145.110 |
| Contra Costa Com. Club Digital Net (by arrangement) | Tue* | 1900 (PL 82.5+) | 444.275 |
| Contra Costa Communications Club Net | Tue | 1930 (PL 82.5-) | 224.300 |
| "QRM Net" | Tue | 1930 (PL 82.5-) | 224.300 |
| UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net | 1 st Wed | 1200 (PL 131.8+) | 440.900 |
| UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net | 1 st Wed | 1200 (PL 107.2-) | 145.490 |
| UCB ARC (W6BB) EMMCOMM Net | 1 st Wed | 1200 simplex | 145.430 |
| UCB ARC (W6BB) Club Net | Wed | 1900 (PL 103.5+) | 442.275 |
| West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net | Thu | 1845 (PL 82.5-) | 145.110 |
| KARO/ECHO ARES EMCOMM Net | Thu | ~1900 simplex | 146.415 |
| NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net | Thu | 1915 (PL 131.8+) | 440.900 |
| Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net | Thu | 1930 (PL 77-) | 146.880 |
| Contra Costa Communications Club Net | Thu | 1930 (PL 82.5-) | 145.110 |
| Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net | Sat | 0900 (PL 82.5-) | 145.110 |
| Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net | Sat | 0915 (PL 82.5+) | 444.275 |
| Bay Shores Richmond EMCOMM Net | Sat | 0930 (PL 82.5-) | 224.300 |